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Sunday, October 14, 1956
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ISRAEL has made her position perfectly clear in connection with the intention of Iraq to move units of her army into BRITAIN JORDAN AND JORDAN signing an armistice agreement with Israel at the close of the War of Independence, and the withdrawal of her troops from Jordan territory was therefore incorporated in the Armistice Agreement. This country made with Jordan. Should Iraq troops now re-enter Jordan, this would constitute a breach of the status quo and Israel would consequently be at liberty to take whatever measures she considers necessary for her defence.

This is the point of view expressed by Israel's Foreign Ministry in the statement issued on Friday, but it does not seem to be fully appreciated by Britain, who has chosen this occasion to issue a statement of her own. The statement, which is a defence agreement with Jordan, according to Jordan, the reason for the introduction of these troops is not the need to prevent an Egyptian coup during the coming Jordanian elections. The attempt to prevent the presence of these troops as needed to give Jordan a sense of security against Israel aggression is a good deal less than honest. Jordan is not now and never was in any danger from Israel so long as she observes the Armistice Agreement and prevents marauders from crossing into Israel territory to attack Israeli citizens. Egypt has wanted peace during the past three months, and infiltration from Gaza has been stopped without difficulty. Both Britain and the U.S. must be aware of this; just as they are aware of the fact that for a long period, when Jordan wished to ensure order and peace along the border, she was able to do so. There is thus an extremely simple way of producing absolute security in Jordan.

From the British point of view the bringing of Iraqi troops into Jordan is an insurance that the rapidly disintegrating puppet state she has set up will not fall to the Egyptians when its inevitable end comes about, but to a member of the Baghdad Pact. But if Britain might seek to maintain a figment of Jordanian independence, it is doubtful whether Iraq will be willing to co-operate.

If Iraq should now assist Jordanian infiltration into Israel in order to compete for popularity with Egypt, we shall no doubt be faced with the picture of more sorrowful statements on solitary initiatives or isolated soldiers in order to exonerate Jordan from blame and endeavour to buy off retribution at the hands of the Israeli Army. The British press has accurately foreseen that Israel will not sit by and see Tulkarm and Kalkiya manned by Iraqi troops to stretch the limited power of the Arab Legion. Will Britain make herself responsible for seeing that the Iraqi troops keep to their intended positions east of the Jordan? Is she in a position to do so? Would it be an easy matter even for a well-intentioned Western power to be quite sure where in Jordan the Iraqi troops are and for what purpose they are being used? Britain has apparently found it impossible to mobilize her war-weary people for any kind of action against the serious injury to her interests committed by Nasser in the Suez Canal. Are they going to be enthusiastic at the prospect of fighting Israeli troops for the right of Iraq to sit in Kalkiya or Jerusalem itself, for that matter?

MENDES RE-ELECTED PARTY VICE-CHIEF
LYONS, Saturday (Reuters).—Former Premier Pierre Mendes-France was today re-elected First Vice-President of the Radical Party at the party's congress, at Lyons, polling.

Suspended Political Action in France Over Suez POUJADISTS PUSH AHEAD

By MAURICE CARRE

PARIS — THE cream is still being sold in the streets of Paris, but already the hot chestnut vendors are back in town. There is a general air of indecisiveness — however, it is by no means confined to the transition of the seasons.

The unresolved Suez crisis has reduced political life here to a state of suspended animation. The Prime Minister, Guy Mollet, has had his hands tied by American diplomacy, and does not expect to recover its freedom of action until after the U.S. Presidential elections, if then. Meanwhile, there is not a politician in the land who would want to step into the place of the trussed-up Prime Minister, M. Guy Mollet.

"Alas!" declared M. Le Troquer, Speaker of the National Assembly, in his inaugural address when Parliament re-assembled after the summer recess, "we might as well admit that action on Suez has had to be put off for a long time, and repeatedly because a certain great nation is constitutionally reduced to virtual impotence during a prolonged pre-electoral period."

The flow of events has temporarily slowed down like a mountain torrent when it reaches a flat stretch of ground; but it will tumble on with added momentum at the next incline which cannot be far off. Which way will it go? One thing that is widely expected is that should the place of the trussed-up French trial of strength with Col. Nasser end in a prestige victory for the Egyptian dictator, a distinct, comparable to the Fall of France in 1940 would surely overtake this country. Algeria and the whole of North Africa, under the sway of Cairo-inspired extremism, would become untenable for the French; the French possessions in Central Africa would be isolated and break loose sooner or later; there would be mass unemployment and frustration in France, aggravated by the inevitable influx of hundreds of thousands of uprooted Frenchmen from the colonies across the Mediterranean.

Shadow Cabinets With this well-understood threat hanging over their heads, and in this period of enforced hibernation, French parliamentarians have more than ever been indulging in their favourite pastime — the formation of "shadow" Governments.

This game is played in the following way. When the coalition Government of the day has been in office for a few months, it is held to be "tired" and ready for replacement. The "tiredness" is a consequence of the strain which politicians of opposing views suffer in putting up with each other within the Government majority. The time has come for leaders of the various factions to get together and think up a new programme, which will sweep all before it like a new broom.

Behind the parliamentary game any number of "shadow" Cabinets may be in the making, and occasionally one of them achieves power only to be knocked down in its turn by another "shadow" administration.

THE Orchestra of Jerusalem season opened on Thursday at the Edison Hall with a full house of expectant music lovers. For once the fact that Jerusalem gets everything taken later than other towns proved fortunate. Since the first concert in Tel Aviv (part of which could be heard last Sunday on Kol Israel in rather a faulty performance) the orchestra seems to have become more accustomed to the conductor's directives and gave a much improved reading of the music.

Happy Fusion THE most satisfying event in Jerusalem's music life is the fusion of the activities of the Chamber Music Society and the Musicians' Association, thus ending a chapter of fruitless competition and harmful overlapping in a field with restricted "public appeal." The ten scheduled concerts are to be held at the Beit Hillel Hall in the YMCA Auditorium to be used for one or two additional recitals with larger numbers of participants. This year more room is given to Jewish Artists, though Paula Salama, Pennyesh (brother and sister) and the Tel Aviv Wind Ensemble shall have their place in the planned series.

ministration. The business of the shrewd political hanger-on is to pick and cultivate the best Prime Minister.

As far as the nation is concerned, what matters of course is not the personality of the leader but the quality of the leadership. Given competence and statesmanship, France may still win through. Together with Britain she has it in her power to command American support for her insistence on a reasonable degree of international control over the Suez Canal, designed solely to safeguard Western shipping and to "reconcile" Arab unity. Washington could certainly not afford to allow France to make an "agonising reappraisal" of her ties with the Atlantic alliance. The American military bases in this country are a trump card which France could bring into play to make a reality of Western unity.

There is a feeling here, which is being more and more widely expressed on the platform and in the press, that as far as the give-and-take of the Western alliance France has done most of the giving, or giving in, notably on German rearmament, asking the Saar. Now, it is argued, the United States must make common cause with France and with Britain on the life and death issue of Suez, gives a determined and united front between Washington, London and Paris, the Moscow-Belgrade-New Delhi axis would undoubtedly relent, and could be brought to see reason.

Rally Planned While the democratic parties here are making "shadow" Cabinets, the POUJADISTS are busy fabricating a "shadow" neo-fascist time. A monster march on Paris is being organized. An appeal has gone out from Pierre Poujade to half a million known sympathizers, individually, asking them to get ready for the forthcoming Parisian rally of "salvation." The provincial POUJADISTS have been instructed to bring with them sufficient provisions for a week, apparently in anticipation of the shops here deciding to shut.

Tough men are being urged to volunteer for service as stewards at the mass meeting, which is to be called the "States General" after the Versailles assembly of 1789 that ushered in the French Revolution.

In a recent article, Tixier-Vignancourt, the POUJADIST member of parliament, former Minister and legal counsel for the "parallel" in the notorious "leakages" case, wrote: "With almost the whole of the French army away in North Africa, Paris remains under the sole protection of the police who are more fit to direct the traffic than to fight a major engagement. Fifty thousand resolute men, armed with knives and pickets, could triumph."

This menace of a putsch is not, for the time being, to be taken too seriously. No one knows that better than Tixier-Vignancourt himself. A charge of sedition has been laid against him for this article, and mockingly he has defended his defence of the Leftist lawyers who were his opponents in the "leakages" affair. Poujade, too, is having his little joke, flaunting

Every modern French writer was represented here, particularly those of the existentialist school. Caught between the Arab and the French, these young writers had honestly faced the dilemma, and deliberately chosen to be Jewish. In the place where it demanded a decision, French is the language we relax in, nobody can tell us how to enjoy ourselves.

ous, wanted to put up the price of bread. Dearest bread would have meant dearer everything. The striking bakers were regulated, the army helped to take the leaves, the man-in-the-street had a v e d beicks with impunity through bakers' shop-windows, and the POUJADIST bakers finally yielded. To get their own backs, though, they are turning out bread that is not so white as it used to be.

At the same time, the special State loan floated to finance operations in Algeria and to avoid new taxation, has achieved a record total of subscriptions of 220 billion francs (about £14,600,000,000), much of it derived from lower middle-class investors with less than 100,000 francs to spare. The terms of the loan were particularly attractive — repayment is guaranteed at the true value of the franc 15 years hence. Thus if in 1971 two francs are equal to one franc today, the lender will duly get back two francs for one. It is, anyhow, comfortable to see how confident the French people are that the more things change, the more they will remain essentially the same in the years to come.

THE evening meal in this kibbutz which faces the Gaza Strip, those who were not on duty gathered in small groups, and visitors were warmly welcomed. Many of them were furnished with sober good taste — fine rugs, curtains, well designed, functional furniture. Some had gramophones and a few excellent records. But even the plainest room contained a good picture, a piece of sculpture or some interesting art. The bookshelves were well stocked. Art books, often in luxurious editions, predominated. It was as if before leaving behind the French, the other men, these youngsters had selected the very best it had to give.

Glancing at the titles of their books, one could guess their intellectual preoccupations, and the reasons which had brought them to live this life in another's room. There were about North Africa, some of them written by the new crop of young Moslem intellectuals. Obviously, these young Jews felt a sympathy towards the Arab struggle for independence. At the same time, they had made French culture and thought their own.

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The young man looked put out and left the room soon after. The Casablancaer, who marked, "I'm sorry I hurt Zvi's feelings. But even Zvi will have to learn not to take themselves so seriously."

Then they looked at various art albums, and discussed aesthetic values. Definitely highbrow, but neither pretentious nor stuffy. The tone was always light, well-mannered. Some left the group to take up their duties, others joined it. Among them was an older man, about 55, a Tel Avivite who regularly comes to inspect the cattle.

As a young refugee from Germany he had studied at a French agricultural school before coming to Israel and as he slipped down to sit on the floor, he said, lighting his pipe: "Could you put me up tonight, his copina? I was through this afternoon, but I felt like enjoying a little intelligent conversation before returning to Tel Aviv. These days, indeed a border kibbutz seems to be the only place in Israel where Israel itself — or possibly Suez — is not the only subject of conversation."

Nowhere did people seem more detached from the Arab menace. It was obviously hard for them to dwell on that subject in public. Before retiring, they listened to the Beethoven Concerto. Their concentration was so complete, one could almost read the music on their drawn, finely modelled

Parliamentary Report
Ben-Gurion Seeks the Panacea

By LEA BEN-DOR

THE Knesset opened in a fairly bright mood, at least as far as its own affairs are concerned. During the past months the present Coalition has suffered no major jolts. If the security situation should worsen, many people would feel reassured by a wall-to-wall government coalition. (They argue that one of the troubles with Mr. Ben-Gurion and Herut is that they might "rag" as into war for the sake of a few fine-sounding, vote-catching phrases, but that if it was no longer avoided we might at least have the benefit of the phrases.) But we have not quite reached this stage yet. In any case nobody knows whether Mr. Ben-Gurion would be willing to sit at one table with Mr. Begin or whether, come to that, Mr. Begin would still be willing to sit with Mr. Ben-Gurion.

The crisis over the Sabbath demonstrations in Jerusalem appears to have passed by the religious representatives in the Government. Mapam and Abduh Ha'Avodah have had their own way to some extent in barring amendments of the

Income Tax regulations that might have been considered as favouring the middle classes, but they are not unaware that the monetary situation is precarious and they are not likely to push further wage claims very far. Nor can they any longer say that the Western powers refuse to all arms. As coalition goes, this one looks stable enough for the moment. And if each Minister tries to pull his department a little further in the direction of his own party and this causes a little additional wear and tear, pushing and jostling in the government apparatus as a whole, and any clever operator knows how to benefit by this situation, that is inevitable. That is government by coalition.

Mr. Ben-Gurion has let it be known that he hates this haggling that he agreed to come back to it last year because there was no other way out of a crisis, but that he now considers the abolition of this system of government necessary if Israel is not only to survive but to develop harmoniously. Coalitions are a premium, he says, on digging your toes in about minor matters and using a form of political blackmail to achieve them. In this way you achieve merit within your party. He believes that the country is agreed about essential security, immigration, development. If there are differences of approach, crystallize them about two or three guiding principles. The easiest and quickest way of achieving this is to scrap proportional representation and to switch over to elections by districts.

He spoke for a full hour on this subject in the first session after the reopening, addressing himself to "honoured members, present and absent." Those who were present heard him with respect but little enthusiasm. His theory has few supporters. Small groups with clearly marked special interests, such as the Religious bloc and the Communists, would stand to lose their direct representation, though not necessarily their influence. The labour splinters prefer to be vociferous and independent groups rather than minority factions in a labour bloc. The General Zionists who were all in favour at one time, viewing it as a promising scheme for themselves, have got cold feet since their numbers crumbled at the last elections. Mr. Simcha Babbe has remained as another lone voice crying in the wilderness in this matter, but the cry was no more than a moderately loud time.

But the Knesset law was first discussed in 1955, brought up again in 1953, and is with us again now, back in Committee where it has already been for considerable periods and nobody knows when it will be finally passed. It is certainly just as well.

PEN FRIENDS JOSEPHINE T. DINAYA, a 16-year old college freshman at 1035 Alvarado, San Francisco, California, would like pen friends from Israel. Her hobbies are stamp collecting and she would like to exchange stamps with anyone regardless of age.

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